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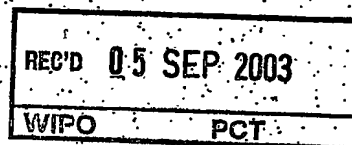
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PCT/EP03/5904

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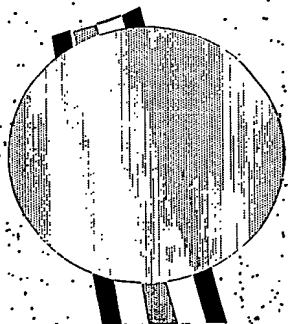
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16 LUG. 2003

Roma, li



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IL DIRIGENTE
Dr. A. CAPONE

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PCT

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

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PCT/IT 02 / 00373
International Application No.

06 JUN 2002 06 / 06 / 02
International Filing Date

MINISTERO DELLE ATTIVITÀ PRODUTTIVE
Direzione Generale per lo sviluppo produttivo e la competitività
Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) BRL

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION

"Method for preparing frozen ready-to-eat meals based on rice"

Box No. II APPLICANT

☐ This person is also inventor

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

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State (that is, country) of nationality:
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State (that is, country) of residence:
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This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States

☒ all designated States except the United States of America

☐ the United States of America only

☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

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This person is:

☐ applicant only

☒ applicant and inventor

☐ inventor only (if this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

Applicant's registration No. with the Office

State (that is, country) of nationality:
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State (that is, country) of residence:
Italy

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States

☐ all designated States except the United States of America

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☒ Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:

☒ agent

☐ common representative

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

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☐ Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Continuation of Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

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This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☒ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

Applicant's registration No. with the Office

State (that is, country) of nationality:

Italy

State (that is, country) of residence:

Italy

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States☐ all designated States except the United States of America☒ the United States of America only☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

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This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☐ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

Applicant's registration No. with the Office

State (that is, country) of nationality:

State (that is, country) of residence:

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

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☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

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☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

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This person is applicant for the purposes of:

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Box No. V DESIGNATION OF STATES

Mark the applicable check-boxes below; at least one must be marked.

The following designations are hereby made under Rule 4.9(a):

Regional Patent

- ☒ **AP** ARIPO Patent: GH Ghana, GM Gambia, KE Kenya, LS Lesotho, MW Malawi, MZ Mozambique, SD Sudan, SL Sierra Leone, SZ Swaziland, TZ United Republic of Tanzania, UG Uganda, ZW Zimbabwe, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the Harare Protocol and of the PCT
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- ☒ **EP** European Patent: AT Austria, BE Belgium, CH & LI Switzerland and Liechtenstein, CY Cyprus, DE Germany, DK Denmark, ES Spain, FI Finland, FR France, GB United Kingdom, GR Greece, IE Ireland, IT Italy, LU Luxembourg, MC Monaco, NL Netherlands, PT Portugal, SE Sweden, TR Turkey, and any other State which is a Contracting State of the European Patent Convention and of the PCT
- ☒ **OA** OAPI Patent: BF Burkina Faso, BJ Benin, CF Central African Republic, CG Congo, CI Côte d'Ivoire, CM Cameroon, GA Gabon, GN Guinea, GW Guinea-Bissau, ML Mali, MR Mauritania, NE Niger, SN Senegal, TD Chad, TG Togo, and any other State which is a member State of OAPI and a Contracting State of the PCT (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line) *GR*

National Patent (if other kind of protection or treatment desired, specify on dotted line):

- | | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GD Grenada | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GE Georgia | | |

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- ☒ EQ Ecuador ☒ PH Philippines ☐
- ☒ GN Equatorial Guinea ☐

Precautionary Designation Statement: In addition to the designations made above, the applicant also makes under Rule 4.9(b) all other designations which would be permitted under the PCT except any designation(s) indicated in the Supplemental Box as being excluded from the scope of this statement. The applicant declares that those additional designations are subject to confirmation and that any designation which is not confirmed before the expiration of 15 months from the priority date is to be regarded as withdrawn by the applicant at the expiration of that time limit. (Confirmation (including fees) must reach the receiving Office within the 15-month time limit.)

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM

The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:

| Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year) | Number of earlier application | Where earlier application is: | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| | | national application: country | regional application:* regional Office | international application: receiving Office |
| item (1) | | | | |
| item (2) | | | | |
| item (3) | | | | |
| item (4) | | | | |
| item (5) | | | | |

☐ Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.

The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of this international application is the receiving Office) identified above as:

☐ all items ☐ item (1) ☐ item (2) ☐ item (3) ☐ item (4) ☐ item (5) ☐ other, see Supplemental Box

* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or one Member of the World Trade Organisation for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)):

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):

ISA / EPO

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):

Date (day/month/year)

Number

Country (or regional Office)

Box No. VIII DECLARATIONS

The following declarations are contained in Boxes Nos. VIII (i) to (v) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in the right column the number of each type of declaration):

Number of
declarations

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (i) | Declaration as to the identity of the inventor | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (ii) | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iii) | Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to claim the priority of the earlier application | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iv) | Declaration of inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America) | : |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (v) | Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty | : |

Box No. IX CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING

This international application contains:

(a) the following number of sheets in paper form:

request (including declaration sheets) : 05
 description (excluding sequence listing part) : 04
 claims : 01
 abstract : 01
 drawings : 01

Sub-total number of sheets : 11

sequence listing part of description (actual number of sheets if filed in paper form, whether or not also filed in computer readable form; see (b) below) :

Total number of sheets : 11

(b) sequence listing part of description filed in computer readable form

(i) ☐ only (under Section 801(a)(i))(ii) ☐ in addition to being filed in paper form (under Section 801(a)(ii))

Type and number of carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, CD-R or other) on which the sequence listing part is contained (additional copies to be indicated under item 9(ii), in right column):

This international application is accompanied by the following item(s) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in right column the number of each item):

Number of items

1. ☒ fee calculation sheet
2. ☐ original separate power of attorney
3. ☐ original general power of attorney
4. ☒ copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any: 44268
5. ☐ statement explaining lack of signature
6. ☐ priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s):
7. ☐ translation of international application into (language):
8. ☐ separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material
9. ☐ sequence listing in computer readable form (indicate also type and number of carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, CD-R or other))
 - (i) ☐ copy submitted for the purposes of international search under Rule 13ter only (and not as part of the international application)
 - (ii) ☐ (only where check-box (b)(i) or (b)(ii) is marked in left column) additional copies including, where applicable, the copy for the purposes of international search under Rule 13ter
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10. ☐ other (specify):

Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract:

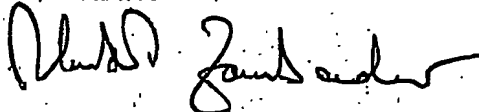
Language of filing of the international application: Italian

Box No. X SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).

Milan, June 06, 2002

Umberto ZAMBARDINO




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1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:

06 JUN 2002

06/06/02

3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:

4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):

5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA /

6. ☐ Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid

2. Drawings:

☐ received;☒ not received;

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Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:



PCMIT 02 / 00373

"Metodo per la produzione di piatti pronti surgelati a base di riso"

DESCRIZIONE

Campo di applicazione

5 La presente invenzione riguarda in generale il settore dei prodotti alimentari surgelati.

In particolare, l'invenzione riguarda prodotti alimentari surgelati a base di riso pronti al consumo previo riscaldamento, tipo risotti, pasta e simili.

10 **Arte nota**

I cosiddetti "piatti pronti" surgelati incontrano un successo in costante crescita presso i consumatori, a causa del poco tempo che l'attuale stile di vita lascia a disposizione per la preparazione dei pasti.

15 I piatti pronti di maggior successo sono in particolare i primi piatti, quali i vari tipi di pastasciutta con sughi più o meno elaborati e i risotti.

20 La tecnologia correntemente adottata per la produzione dei suddetti piatti pronti comporta la preparazione in maniera separata degli ingredienti fondamentali del piatto, il loro congelamento e la miscelazione di tali ingredienti congelati nelle opportune proporzioni.

Così, per fare un esempio, se si desidera produrre una pasta ai frutti di mare, le fasi produttive saranno le seguenti:

25 - cottura della pasta in acqua, scolatura della stessa, lavaggio con acqua e surgelazione;

- preparazione e cottura della salsa e riduzione della

stessa in pellet surgelati;

- cottura e surgelazione dei frutti di mare;

- miscelazione dei tre suddetti ingredienti nelle opportune proporzioni e confezionamento della miscela così
5 ottenuta.

Lo stesso procedimento di cui sopra viene eseguito quando si vuol preparare un risotto ai frutti di mare. Anche in questo caso dunque il riso viene cotto separatamente in acqua, lavato e surgelato.

10 Mentre i risultati ottenuti con l'attuale tecnologia possono essere considerati soddisfacenti per quanto riguarda i piatti pronti a base di pasta, non altrettanto può dirsi per quelli a base di riso.

15 Nel caso della pasta, il procedimento utilizzato prevede la cottura separata della pasta e del sugo, come del resto avviene nella preparazione tradizionale dei piatti di pastasciutta e le caratteristiche organolettiche e di consistenza del piatto finale non si discostano di molto da quelle di un corrispondente piatto preparato in maniera tradizionale.

20 Nel caso dei risotti invece le modalità di preparazione e cottura sono molto diverse da quelle previste dalla gastronomia tradizionale. Quest'ultima prevede che il riso sia cotto non già da solo nell'acqua bensì insieme a sugo, brodo ed eventuali ingredienti particolari, come frutti di mare, funghi, asparagi ecc..

25 E' ben noto che le caratteristiche organolettiche e strutturali di un risotto preparato secondo la metodica tradizionale sopra accennata sono ben diverse da quelle di un semplice riso bollito e condito con una salsa. Questa diversità è dovuta sia alla differente quantità d'acqua assorbita dal riso nelle due diverse modalità di
30 cottura sia al fatto che nei risotti preparati in maniera tradizionale non viene perduto l'amido rilasciato dal riso durante la cottura, ciò che conferisce una consistenza vellutata al risotto e ne migliora il

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sapore.

Orbene, i "risotti" surgelati attualmente disponibili in commercio in realtà non meriterebbero neppure una simile denominazione, poiché il piatto che da essi si ottiene dopo
5 opportuno scongelamento e riscaldamento è assimilabile ad un riso bollito condito con una salsa ed eventuali altri ingredienti.

Un altro inconveniente presentato dai piatti pronti a base di riso attualmente in commercio è quello della difficoltà della loro porzionatura.

10 I suddetti piatti pronti sono infatti commercializzati per lo più in buste o astucci che contengono circa 500 g (equivalenti a 2-3 porzioni) di una miscela costituita da chicchi di riso sfusi (ottenuti per surgelazione in letto fluido di riso bollito in acqua e lavato), pellet di salsa e particolari vari (funghi, molluschi, verdure
15 ecc.).

Se viene adoperata l'intera confezione, si riesce ad ottenere un piatto finale con i corretti rapporti ponderali tra i vari componenti ma se si desidera preparare ad esempio una sola porzione, difficilmente si riuscirà a prelevare un'aliquota di miscela
20 tale da contenere i tre ingredienti nelle giuste proporzioni ed il piatto finale risulterà o poco o troppo condito.

Il problema alla base della presente invenzione è stato dunque quello di mettere a disposizione un piatto pronto a base di riso che presentasse caratteristiche organolettiche e strutturali
25 quanto più vicine possibile a quelle dei tradizionali risotti e che consentisse un'agevole porzionatura, superando così gli inconvenienti più sopra evidenziati con riferimento alla tecnica nota.

Sommario dell'invenzione

30 Un tale problema è stato risolto, secondo l'invenzione, da un metodo per la produzione di un risotto surgelato o un simile piatto

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pronto a base di riso, comprendente le fasi di:

- a) addizionare al riso gli ingredienti liquidi e particolari necessari per la preparazione del risotto secondo l'ordine previsto dalla ricetta tradizionale e portare il tutto al grado di cottura
5 desiderato;
- b) raffreddare rapidamente il risotto così preparato;
- c) alimentare il risotto in un'apparecchiatura dosatrice, che provvede a formare porzioni sferoidali di peso predeterminato;
- d) sottoporre le suddette porzioni a congelamento
10 ultrarapido;
- e) confezionare un numero predeterminato di dette porzioni congelate in appositi astucci o buste.

Fra gli ingredienti liquidi utilizzabili nel metodo sopra descritto si possono citare, a titolo di esempio, brodo di carne o di
15 pesce o vegetale, salsa di pomodoro e latte. Fra gli ingredienti particolari citiamo, sempre a titolo di esempio, verdure (asparagi, spinaci, carciofi, zucca, zucchini, ecc.), molluschi, crostacei, pesce, carne, ecc..

L'apparecchiatura dosatrice per la porzionatura del risotto
20 può essere costituita, ad esempio, da un dosatore a coclea.

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RIVENDICAZIONI

1. Metodo per la produzione di un risotto surgelato o un simile piatto pronto a base di riso, comprendente le fasi di:

- a) addizionare al riso gli ingredienti liquidi e particolari necessari per la preparazione del risotto secondo l'ordine previsto dalla ricetta tradizionale e portare il tutto al grado di cottura desiderato;
- b) raffreddare rapidamente il risotto così preparato;
- c) alimentare il risotto in un'apparecchiatura dosatrice, che provvede a formare porzioni sferoidali di peso predeterminato;
- d) sottoporre le suddette porzioni a congelamento ultrarapido;
- e) confezionare un numero predeterminato di dette porzioni congelate in appositi astucci o buste.



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RIASSUNTO

E' descritto un metodo per la produzione di un risotto surgelato o un simile piatto pronto a base di riso caratterizzato dal fatto che il riso viene cotto insieme agli ingredienti liquidi e
5 particolari necessari per la preparazione del risotto secondo l'ordine previsto dalla ricetta tradizionale, e dal fatto che il risotto così ottenuto viene raffreddato e porzionato a formare porzioni sferoidali di peso predeterminato che vengono congelate e confezionate in astucci o buste.

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